

Appl. No. 10/626,913
Amdt. dated February 23, 2006
Reply to Office action of January 20, 2006

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1. (Currently amended) An anchor assembly for supporting an
2 axially-elongate tubular post having an arcuate exterior profile and having at least a
3 hollow lower end bounded by an interior surface, the assembly including:
4 a tubular anchor body extending along an axis and having a hollow interior
5 with an arcuate interior cross-sectional area, the hollow interior of the anchor body
6 having two open ends and being configured to receive within the hollow interior of
7 the anchor body from one open end; and
8 a base plate connected to and closing the end of the anchor body opposite to
9 the end that receives the post, the base plate having an arcuate portion shaped
10 congruently to the arcuate cross-sectional area of the interior of the anchor body and
11 mated into the interior of the anchor body, the base plate having an upstanding
12 arcuate conical portion located within the interior of the anchor body, the conical
13 portion having a cross-sectional area that is complementary to the hollow lower end
14 of the post and having a greatest radial dimension at a base of the conical portion,
15 the anchor body and the conical portion bounding an annular area space that
16 extends about the conical portion for receiving the hollow lower end of the post, the
17 greatest radial dimension of the conical portion being greater than a complementary
18 dimension of the interior surface of the post to cause the interior surface of the post
19 to slide over the conical portion and the conical portion to frictionally engage the post
20 such that the hollow lower end of the post wedges against the conical portion within
21 the annular space to prevent lateral movement of the post relative to the base plate.

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1 2. (Original) An anchor assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the
2 anchor body has a circular interior cross-sectional area to receive the post which has
3 a circular exterior profile, the arcuate portion of the base plate is circular to mate with
4 the circular cross-section anchor body, and the conical portion of the base plate is a
5 circular conic.

1 3. (Currently amended) An anchor assembly as set forth in claim 1,
2 wherein the conical portion of the base plate is a truncated conic, and the
3 conical portion is spaced radially inward from the anchor body at the greatest
4 radial dimension of the conical portion such that the annular area space that
5 extends about the conical portion extends to the greatest radial dimension of the
6 conical portion.

1 4. (Original) An anchor assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the
2 conical portion of the base plate has an axially extending opening to receive a
3 retaining member.

1 5. (Original) An anchor assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the
2 base plate has an arcuate flange that extends in an outward radial direction from the
3 arcuate portion of the base plate.

1 6. (Original) An anchor assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the
2 greatest radial dimension of the conical portion of the base plate is sufficiently large

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3 to cause frictional engagement with the post at a location of the post that is spaced
4 from the arcuate portion of the base plate.

1 7. (Currently amended) A base plate insert for use with an
2 axially-elongate tubular anchor body within an anchor assembly for supporting an
3 axially-elongate tubular post, the anchor body having a hollow interior with an
4 arcuate interior cross-sectional area and the hollow interior having two open ends
5 and being configured to receive the tubular post from one open end, and the
6 tubular post having an arcuate exterior profile and having at least a hollow lower
7 end bounded by an interior surface, the base plate for connection to and closing of
8 the end of the anchor body opposite to the end that receives the post, the base
9 plate including:

10 an arcuate portion shaped congruently to the arcuate cross-sectional area of
11 the anchor body for mating into the cross-sectional area of the interior of the anchor
12 body; and

13 an upstanding arcuate conical portion for location within the interior of the
14 anchor body, the conical portion being rigid and non-deflecting, and having a
15 cross-sectional area that is complementary to the hollow lower end of the post and
16 having a greatest radial dimension at a base of the conical portion, tapering of the
17 conical portion providing an annular area space that extends about the conical
18 portion for receipt of the hollow lower end of the tube, the greatest radial dimension
19 of the conical portion being greater than a complementary dimension of the interior
20 surface of the post for causing the interior surface of the post to slide over the
21 conical portion and the conical portion to frictionally engage the post such that the

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22 hollow lower end of the post wedges against the conical portion within the annular
23 space to prevent lateral movement of the post relative to the base plate.

1 8. (Original) A base plate insert as set forth in claim 7, wherein the
2 arcuate portion of the base plate is circular to mate with a circular cross-section
3 anchor body, and the conical portion of the base plate is a circular conic.

1 9. (Original) A base plate insert as set forth in claim 9, wherein the
2 conical portion of the base plate is a truncated conic.

1 10. (Original) A base plate insert as set forth in claim 7, wherein the
2 conical portion of the base plate has an axially extending opening to receive a
3 retaining member.

1 11. (Original) A base plate insert as set forth in claim 7, wherein the
2 base plate has an arcuate flange that extends in an outward radial direction from the
3 arcuate portion of the base plate.

1 12. (Original) A base plate insert as set forth in claim 7, wherein the
2 greatest radial dimension of the conical portion of the base plate is sufficiently large
3 to cause frictional engagement with the post at a location of the post that is spaced
4 from the arcuate portion of the base plate.

1 13. (Previously presented) A base plate insert as set forth in claim 7,
2 wherein the conical portion is circumferentially continuous.

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1 14. (Previously presented) A base plate insert as set forth in claim 7,
2 wherein a greatest radial dimension of the arcuate portion is greater than a greatest
3 radial dimension of the conical portion.

1 15. (Currently amended) An anchor assembly for supporting an
2 axially-elongate tubular post having an arcuate exterior profile and having at least a
3 hollow lower end bounded by an interior surface, the assembly including:
4 surface means, extending along an axis and providing a hollow arcuate
5 interior cross-sectional area, for receiving the post, the hollow interior of the surface
6 means having two open ends with the post extending into the interior of the surface
7 means from one open end; and

8 a base plate located at and closing the end of the surface means opposite to
9 the end that receives the post, the base plate having an arcuate portion shaped
10 congruently to the arcuate cross-sectional area of the interior of the surface means
11 and mated into the cross-sectional area of the surface means, the base plate having
12 an upstanding arcuate conical portion located within the interior of the anchor body,
13 the conical portion having a cross-sectional area that is complementary to the hollow
14 lower end of the post and having a greatest radial dimension at a base of the conical
15 portion, the anchor body and the surface means bounding an annular area space
16 that extends about the conical portion for receiving the hollow lower end of the post,
17 the greatest radial dimension of the conical portion being greater than a
18 complementary dimension of the interior surface of the post to cause the interior
19 surface of the post to slide over the conical portion and the conical portion to
20 frictionally engage the post such that the hollow lower end of the post wedges

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21 against the conical portion within the annular space to prevent lateral movement of
22 the post relative to the base plate.

1 16. (Previously presented) An anchor assembly as set forth in claim
2 15, wherein the surface means has a circular interior cross-sectional area to receive
3 the post which has a circular exterior profile, the arcuate portion of the base plate is
4 circular to mate with the circular cross-section of the surface means, and the conical
5 portion of the base plate is a circular conic.

1 17. (Previously presented) An anchor assembly as set forth in
2 claim 15, wherein the conical portion of the base plate is a truncated conic.

1 18. (Previously presented) An anchor assembly as set forth in
2 claim 15, wherein the conical portion of the base plate has an axially extending
3 opening to receive a retaining member.

1 19. (Previously presented) An anchor assembly as set forth in
2 claim 15, wherein the base plate has an arcuate flange that extends in an outward
3 radial direction from the arcuate portion of the base plate.

1 20. (Previously presented) An anchor assembly as set forth in
2 claim 15, wherein the greatest radial dimension of the conical portion of the base
3 plate is sufficiently large to cause frictional engagement with the post at a location of
4 the post that is spaced from the arcuate portion of the base plate.